



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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City and County Reach Sewer Accord

SAN BERNARDINO – An agreement approved by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday will ensure sewer service for unincorporated Fontana and will also generate a pool of tax dollars that can be used for improvements in the community.

The agreement between the County of San Bernardino and the City of Fontana calls for the County to set aside 37% of the sales tax generated in the City's unincorporated western sphere of influence. In return, the City will provide sewer service in the unincorporated area. Additionally, the City will set aside development fees collected from new sewer customers for use on projects in the western sphere, which includes the 3,167-acre Speedway Redevelopment Area.

"This agreement sets the stage for future growth and development in the Speedway Redevelopment Area while also ensuring that a portion of the sales tax dollars generated in the western sphere return to the community in the form of improvements, such as storm drains, sidewalks and landscaping," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane, who represents unincorporated Fontana as the County's Second District Supervisor.

The County and City began working on the agreement about two and a half years ago. At the time, a City policy prohibited the City from taking on new sewer customers in the unincorporated community.

The County considered creating a Special District to begin providing sewer service in the unincorporated area but held off after the City, which has sewer infrastructure in the western sphere, objected to the move. The County estimated it would cost more than \$34 million to begin providing sewer service in the area.

The sales tax set aside of 37% is based on the estimated annual debt service the County would have incurred for a County-operated sewer system. In 2007, the unincorporated Fontana community generated about \$5.1 million in sales tax revenue.

“This agreement will allow more sale tax-generating businesses to locate in unincorporated Fontana, which means the amount of money set aside for improvements in the community will continue to grow year after year,” Biane said.

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